

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte SCOTT GRAHAM

Appeal No. 2005-1142
Application No. 09/524,612

ON BRIEF

Before GARRIS, WALTZ, and DELMENDO, Administrative Patent Judges.

DELMENDO, Administrative Patent Judge.

MAILED

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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on an appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134 (2004) from the examiner's final rejection of claims 1 through 9, 16, and 17 (final Office action mailed on June 19, 2003) in the above-identified application.¹ Claims 10 through 15, the

¹ In reply to the final Office action, the appellant submitted an amendment pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116 (2003) (effective Feb. 5, 2001) on September 10, 2003, proposing changes to all of the appealed claims. The examiner indicated in the advisory action of September 24, 2003 that the amendment will not be entered for purposes of this appeal. The examiner further stated in the advisory action that the 35 U.S.C. § 112,

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only other pending claims, stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.142(b) (2003) (effective Dec. 22, 1959) as being directed to a non-elected invention. (Answer at 2.)

The subject matter on appeal relates to a mitt removably associated with a vehicle washing brush (claims 1-8), a self-service vehicle wash (claim 9), and to a foaming brush mounted to a self-service car wash (claims 16 and 17). According to the appellant, the present invention is more effective in removing dirty film than an uncovered bristle brush used in the prior art and prevents scratching (of vehicle surfaces) associated with the use of such prior art bristle brush. (Specification at 1-2.) Further details of this appealed subject matter are recited in representative claims 1 and 17 reproduced below:

1. A mitt removably associated with a vehicle washing brush comprising:

a material formed into the approximate shape of said washing brush, wherein said material is capable of fitting around said washing brush, and said material has a first surface facing and in contact with said washing brush, and a second surface opposite said first surface facing away from said washing brush, and wherein said second surface is woven with fibers capable of washing a surface of a vehicle, and

§2, rejection was overcome. We note, however, that the rejection was reinstated in the examiner's answer mailed on May 18, 2004.

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said material is capable of allowing the passage of water from said washing brush;

a fastener capable of securing said mitt onto said brush while water passes through said washing brush.

.17. A foaming brush removably mounted to a self-service car wash comprising a cover adapted to fit over said brush.

The examiner relies on the following prior art references as evidence of unpatentability:

Peterson	2,571,606	Oct. 16, 1951
Wirth	5,177,831	Jan. 12, 1993
Inventorship Unknown (published GB application) (GB '824)	481,824	Mar. 18, 1938

The claims on appeal stand rejected as follows:

- I. claims 1 through 9, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, as indefinite (answer at 4-5);
- II. claims 1 through 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Wirth (id. at 5-6);
- III. claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by GB '824 (id. at 6);
- IV. claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over GB '824 in view of Peterson (id. at 7); and
- V. claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wirth (id. at 8.)

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We reverse rejection I as to claims 1 through 9 and 16 and rejections II and V in their entirety. We affirm, however, rejection I as to claim 17 and rejections III and IV in their entirety.²

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2: Claims 1-9, 16, & 17

With respect to appealed claim 1, it is the examiner's position that the term "'associated' appears vague." (Answer at 5.) That is, the examiner is uncertain as to whether "the mitt [is] coupled with the washing brush or not." (Id.) The examiner further queries: "If claim 1 is the combination, then what is claim 16 setting forth?" (Id.)

Our view of the term "associated" in the phrase "removably associated" differs from that of the examiner. The appellant argues throughout the brief that it is the combination of the mitt and the brush that is being claimed. (See, e.g., appeal brief at 5.) The appellant's argument is consistent with the common meaning of the term as would be understood by one skilled in the relevant art. Specifically, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate

² The appellant submits that claims 1-9 stand or fall together. (Appeal brief filed on February 20, 2004 at 4.) Accordingly, in our assessment of each of rejections III and IV, we confine our discussion to a single claim (i.e., claim 1 for rejection III and claim 8 for rejection IV). 37 CFR § 1.192(c)(7) (2003) (effective Apr. 21, 1995).

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Dictionary 70 (10th ed., 1996), copy attached, defines the root term "associate" as: "to join or connect together: COMBINE." Under these circumstances, it cannot be said that appealed claim 1 encompasses or reads on a mitt alone because one skilled in the relevant art would understand that a mitt that is not "removably associated" with a brush would not infringe appealed claim 1. The examiner's reliance on appealed claim 16 is unpersuasive, because claim 16 is more restrictive relative to claim 1 in that it recites a "foaming brush mounted to a self-service car wash."

We reach a different conclusion with respect to appealed claim 17. The examiner asserts: "It is unclear how a brush mounted to a car wash can be comprised of a cover adapted to fit over said brush. If the cover is what constitutes the brush, how can it be adapted to fit over itself?" (Answer at 5.) The appellant, on the other hand, does not respond to the examiner's rejection on this ground. Accordingly, we summarily affirm the examiner's uncontested rejection of appealed claim 17.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b): Claims 1-5 & 9 over Wirth

The examiner's rejection of appealed claims 1 through 5 and 9 is premised on the erroneous interpretation that appealed claim 1 reads on a mitt alone rather than a mitt that is

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"removably associated with a vehicle washing brush." (Answer at 5.) Wirth, the relied upon reference, does not disclose a covered brush for washing vehicles. Instead, Wirth describes a cloth-covered sponge. (Column 3, lines 44-49; Figure 6.) In fact, Wirth denigrates the use of brushes for washing vehicles. (Column 1, lines 39-52.)

Because Wirth does not describe a mitt in removable association with a brush, we cannot uphold this rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b): Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, & 9 over GB '824

A myriad of judicial precedents repeatedly admonish the PTO to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation, taking into account any enlightenment by way of definitions or otherwise found in the specification. In re Bigio, 381 F.3d 1320, 1324, 72 USPQ2d 1209, 1211 (Fed. Cir. 2004) ("[T]he PTO gives a disputed claim term its broadest reasonable interpretation during patent prosecution."); In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1997) ("[T]he PTO applies to the verbiage of the proposed claims the broadest reasonable meaning of the words in their ordinary usage as they would be understood by one of ordinary skill."); In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir.

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1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow.").

Applying this legal principle, we find that the specification (page 3, lines 5-9) informs one skilled in the relevant art as follows:

The term "self-service vehicle wash" includes any vehicle washing facility where vehicles are regularly washed manually. A typical example of a self-service vehicle wash is a self-service car wash that is business [sic] that is open to the public, where patrons pay for certain amount of time to use the facilities. Self-service vehicle washes also exist at private, government or military institutions where a large number of vehicles are regularly washed.

[Underscoring added.]

Thus, the specification makes it clear to one skilled in the relevant art that the recitation "self-service vehicle wash" includes any facility where vehicles are washed on a regular basis. From this definition, we determine that the recitation "self-service vehicle wash" in appealed claim 9 reads on any facility where a vehicle could be washed.

GB '824 describes a brush or broom in combination with a mitten-shaped cover secured to the brush or broom. (Figure 6.) GB '824 further teaches that a cord or the like of an elastic or non-elastic material secured in a hem around the edge of the cover foundation may be used to affix the cover to the brush or

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broom. (Page 2, line 107 to page 3, line 7.) According to GB '824, "[t]he glove, mitten or pocket forming member may if desired be made from waterproof or oilproof material" (page 2, lines 3-5; page 3, lines 81-83), thus indicating that the cover may be made from a material that is not waterproof.

We find no difference in terms of structure between the invention recited in appealed claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 and the covered brush or broom described in GB '824. Given this structural identity, it would reasonably appear that the covered brush or broom of GB '824 would inherently or necessarily be capable of being useful for washing vehicles. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431 (Fed. Cir. 1997). In fact, the appellant admits as much. (Appeal brief at 5.)

With respect to appealed claim 9, we have already determined that the recitation "self-service vehicle wash" in appealed claim 9 reads on any facility where a vehicle could be washed. It is our judgment that GB '824 discloses the same, because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been in possession of the combination of the covered brush as described in GB '824 with a bucket of water. In re Graves, 69 F.3d 1147, 1151, 36 USPQ2d 1697, 1701 (Fed. Cir. 1995); In re Donohue, 766

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F.2d 531, 533, 226 USPQ 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985); In re LeGrice, 301 F.2d 929, 936, 133 USPQ 365, 373-74 (CCPA 1962).

For these reasons, we are in complete agreement with the examiner that GB '824 describes, either expressly or inherently, every limitation recited in appealed claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claim 8 over GB '824 and Peterson

The examiner determined (answer at 7):

It would have been obvious to one of [ordinary] skill in the art to provide the elastic for the cover of the GB patent in the form of an elastic sheet sewn about the opening, instead of elastic cording sewn into the hem, as clearly disclosed by Peterson, as an art recognized equivalent elastic means.

In response, the appellant argues that "[n]owhere does Peterson teach or suggest to employ a cover to a vehicle wash brush, and Peterson does not mention vehicles whatsoever." (Appeal brief at 6.)

We do not find the appellant's argument persuasive. As the examiner notes (answer at 11), Peterson is cited for its teaching of a sewn elastic band for securing one object to another. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it prima facie obvious to use the securing means described in Peterson in lieu of the one described in GB '824 with the

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reasonable expectation that these means would be interchangeable fastening or securing means. In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 426, 208 USPQ 871, 882 (CCPA 1981) ("[O]ne cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where, as here, the rejections are based on combinations of references.").

V. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 16 & 17 over Wirth

The examiner alleges: "While Wirth does not disclose his cover as being fit over a brush, such appears obvious in view of the teachings of Wirth." (Answer at 8.) The examiner concludes: "Merely providing the mitt of Wirth on a brush instead of a sponge appears obvious to one of skill in the art to provide a softer surface for vehicle cleansing." (Id.)

The examiner's position is not well taken. First, "appears obvious" is not the standard to be applied in determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 493, 20 USPQ2d 1438, 1442 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (citing In re Dow Chemical Co., 837 F.2d 469, 473, 5 USPQ2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Second, the examiner provides no reasoning based on facts to arrive at the obviousness conclusion.

For these reasons, we cannot affirm this rejection.

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Summary

In summary, we reverse: (i) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, of appealed claims 1 through 9 and 16; (ii) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of appealed claims 1 through 5 and 9 as anticipated by Wirth; and (iii) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of appealed claims 16 and 17 as unpatentable over Wirth. However, we affirm: (i) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, of appealed claim 17; (ii) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of appealed claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9 as anticipated by GB '824; and (iii) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of appealed claim 8 as unpatentable over GB '824 in view of Peterson.

The decision of the examiner is therefore affirmed in part.

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No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136(a)(1)(iv).

AFFIRMED IN PART

Bradley R. Garris
Bradley R. Garris)
Administrative Patent Judge)
)
)
Thomas A. Waltz) BOARD OF PATENT
Thomas A. Waltz)
Administrative Patent Judge) APPEALS AND
)
) INTERFERENCES
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instance of assimilating *b* : the state of being assimilated 2 : the incorporation or conversion of nutrients into protoplasm that in animals follows digestion and absorption and in higher plants involves both photosynthesis and root absorption 3 : change of a sound in speech so that it becomes identical with or similar to a neighboring sound (the usual ~ of *v* to *sh* in the phrase *his shoe*) 4 : the process of receiving new facts or of responding to new situations in conformity with what is already available to consciousness

as-sim-i-la-tion-ist \-sh\-\sh-nist\ n (1899) : a person who advocates a policy of assimilating differing racial or cultural groups — **as-sim-i-la-tion-ism** \-sho-ni-zam\ n — **as-sim-i-la-tion-ist** adj

as-sim-i-la-tive \-s\-\sh-ma-jä-tiv\ adj (14c) : of, relating to, or causing assimilation

as-sim-i-la-to-ry \-s\-\sh-ma-lä-tör\ adj (ca. 1847) : ASSIMILATIVE

As-sin-i-boin or **As-sin-i-boine** \-s\-\sh-ni-boin\ n, pl -boin or -boines or boine or boines [Ojibway dial. *assipwaw*, lit., stone Sioux] (1804) : a member of an American Indian people orig. of the area between the upper Missouri and middle Saskatchewan rivers

as-sist \-sist\ vb [MF or L; MF *assister* to help, stand by, fr. L *assister*, fr. *ad-* + *sistere* to cause to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at STAND] vt (15c) : to give us, supplementary support or aid to ~ vi 1 : to give support or aid (~ed at the stove) (another surgeon ~ed on the operation) 2 : to be present as a spectator (the ideal figures ~ing at Italian holy scenes —Mary McCarthy)

assist (1597) 1 : an act of assistance : AID 2 : the action (as a throw or pass) of a player who enables a teammate to make a putout or score a goal; also : official credit given for such an action 3 : a mechanical device that provides assistance supplied : AID (financial and technical ~)

as-sis-tant \-s\-\sh-tant\ n (15c) : a person who assists : HELPER; also : a person holding an assistantship — **assistant adj**

assistant professor n (1851) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an instructor and below an associate professor — **assistant professorship** n

as-sis-tant-ship \-s\-\sh-s(t)-ship\ n (1948) : a paid appointment awarded annually to a qualified graduate student that requires part-time teaching, research, or residence hall duties

as-size \-siz\ n [ME *assise*, fr. OF, session, settlement, fr. *asseoir* to seat; fr. (assumed) VL *assidere*, fr. L *assidere* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge, fr. *ad-* + *sedere* to sit — more at SIT] (14c) 1 a : a judicial inquest b : an action to be decided by such an inquest, the writ for instituting it, or the verdict or finding rendered by the jury 2 a : the former periodical sessions of the superior courts in English counties for trial of civil and criminal cases — usu. used in pl. b : the time or place of holding such a court, the court itself, or a session of it — usu. used in pl.

as-so-ci-ate \-s\-\shé-\ät\, -sé-\ vt -at-ed; -at-ing [ME *associat* associated, fr. L *associatus*, pp. of *associae* to unite, fr. *ad-* + *sociare* to join, *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] vt (14c) 1 : to join as a partner, friend, or companion 2 obs : to keep company with : ATTEND 3 : to join or connect together : COMBINE 4 : to bring together or into relationship in any of various intangible ways (as in memory or imagination) ~ vi 1 : to come or be together as partners, friends, or companions 2 : to combine or join with other parts : UNITE *syn* see JOIN

as-so-ci-ate \-s\-\shé-ot\, -sé-, -ät\ adj (14c) 1 : closely connected (as in function or office) with another 2 : closely related esp. in the mind 3 : having secondary or subordinate status (~ membership in a society)

as-so-ci-ate same as 1 n (1533) 1 : one associated with another: as a : PARTNER, COLLEAGUE b : COMPANION, COMRADE 2 a : an entry-level member (as of a learned society, professional organization, or profession) b : EMPLOYEE, WORKER 3 often cap : a degree conferred esp. by a junior college (<in arts>) — **as-so-ci-ate-ship** \-sh-ip\ n

associate professor n (1822) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an assistant professor and below a professor — **associate professorship** n

as-so-ci-a-tion \-s\-\shé-\shé-\shén\ n (1535) 1 a : the act of associating b : the state of being associated : COMBINATION, RELATIONSHIP 2 : an organization of persons having a common interest : SOCIETY 3 : something linked in memory or imagination with a thing or person 4 : the process of forming mental connections or bonds between sensations, ideas, or memories 5 : the aggregation of chemical species to form (as with hydrogen bonds) loosely bound complexes 6 : a major unit in ecological community organization characterized by essential uniformity and usu. by two or more dominant species — **as-so-ci-a-tional** \-sh\-\sh-nal\ adj

association area (ca. 1909) : an area of the cerebral cortex that functions in linking and coordinating the sensory and motor areas

association football n (1873) : SOCCER

as-so-ci-a-tion-ism \-s\-\sh-e-\sho-ni-zam\, -s\-\shé-\ n (1875) : a reductionist school of psychology that holds that the content of consciousness can be explained by the association and reassociation of irreducible sensory and perceptual elements — **as-so-ci-a-tion-ist** \-sh\-\sh-nist\ n — **as-so-ci-a-tion-is-tic** \-sh\-\sh-nis-tik\ adj

as-so-ci-a-tive \-s\-\shé-\shiv\, -sé-, -sho-tiv\ adj (1812) 1 : of or relating to association esp. of ideas or images 2 : dependent on or acquired by association or learning 3 : of, having, or being the property of producing the same result no matter which pair of elements next to each other in a mathematical expression is used to perform a given operation first if the elements in the expression are listed in a fixed order (addition is ~ since $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$) — **as-so-ci-a-tively** adj — **as-so-ci-a-tivity** \-s\-\shé-\sh'i-vä-të\, -sé-, -sho-ti-\ n

associative learning n (1957) : a learning process in which discrete ideas and percepts become linked to one another

associative neuron n (1935) : a neuron that conveys impulses from one neuron to another

as-soil \-s\-\sh(i)\ vt [ME, fr. OF *assoldre*, fr. L *absolvere* to absolve] (13c) 1 *archaic* : ABSOLVE, PARDON 2 *archaic* : ACQUIT, CLEAR 3 *archaic* : EXPIATE — **as-soil-ment** \-mant\ n, *archaic*

as-so-nance \-s\-\sh-nan(t)s\ n [F, fr. L *assonare* to answer with the same sound, fr. *ad-* + *sonare* to sound, fr. *sonus* sound — more at SOUND] (1727) 1 : resemblance of sound in words or syllables 2 a : relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds esp. of vowels b : repetition

of vowels without repetition of consonants (as in *stony* and *hole*) used as an alternative to rhyme in verse — **as-so-nant** \-nänt\ adj or — **as-so-nant-ial** \-sh\-\sh-nant-iäl\ adj

as soon as *con*(14c) : immediately at or shortly after the time that

as-sort \-s\-\sh-ör\ vb [MF *assortir*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *sorte* sort] vt (15c) 1 : to distribute into groups of a like kind : CLASSIFY 2 : to supply with an assortment (as of goods) ~ vi 1 : to agree in kind : HARMONIZE 2 : to keep company : ASSOCIATE — **as-sort-er** n

as-sor-ta-tive \-s\-\sh-tä-tiv\ adj (1897) : being nonrandom matin based on like or unlike characteristics — **as-sor-ta-tive-ly** \-sh\-\sh-tiv-é\ adv

as-sorted \-s\-\sh-tad\ adj (ca. 1797) 1 : suited esp. by nature or character (an ill-assorted pair) 2 : consisting of various kinds (~ choclates)

as-sort-ment \-s\-\sh-mänt\ n (1611) 1 a : the act of assorting persons

as-sug-ge \-s\-\sh-wäj\ also \-swähz\ or \-swähz\, vi as-suaged; as-suag-in [ME *awsgagen*, fr. OF *assouagier*, fr. (assumed) VL *assuare*, fr. L *as-* + *suavis* sweet — more at SWEET] (14c) 1 : to lessen the intensity of (something that pains or distresses) : EASE 2 : PACIFY, QUIET 3 : to put an end to by satisfying : APPEASE, QUENCH *syn* see RELIEVE — as suage-ment \-mänt\ n

as-su-a-tive \-s\-\sh-wä-siv\, -zhiv\ adj (1708) : SOOTHING, CALMING

as-sum-e \-s\-\sh-sum\ vt as-sumed; as-sum-ing [ME, fr. L *assumere*, fi *ad-* + *sumere* to take — more at CONSUME] (15c) 1 a : to take up, o in : RECEIVE b : to take into partnership, employment, or use. 2 a : to take to or upon oneself : UNDERTAKE b : PUT ON, DON 3 : to take control of 4 : to pretend to have or be : FEIGN (assumed, an air of confidence in spite of her dismay) 5 : to take as granted or true : SUPPOSE 6 : to take over (the debts of another) — **as-sum-eable** \-s\-\sh-mä-bal\ adj — as sum-abil-ty \-sü-mä-bil-té\ n — **as-sum-able** \-sü-mä-bal\ adj — as sum-able \-bile\ adj

syn ASSUME, AFFECT, PRETEND, SIMULATE, FEIGN, COUNTERFEIT, SHAM mean to put on a false or deceptive appearance. ASSUME often implies justifiable motive rather than an intent to deceive (*assumed an air of cheerfulness around the patients*). AFFECT implies making a false show of possessing, using, or feeling (*affected an interest in art*). PRETEND implies an overt and sustained false appearance (*pretended that nothing had happened*). SIMULATE suggests a close imitation of the appearance of something (*cosmetics that simulate a suntan*). FEIGN implies more artificial invention than PRETEND, less specific mimicry than SIMULATE (*feigned sickness*). COUNTERFEIT implies achieving the highest degree of verisimilitude of any of these words (*an actor counterfeiting drunkenness*). SHAM implies an obvious falsehood that fools, only the gullible (*shammed a most unconvincing limp*).

as-sum-ing adj (1695) : PRETENTIOUS, PRESUMPTUOUS

as-sump-sit \-s\-\sh-s(p)s-t\ n [NL, he undertook, fr. L *assumere* to undertake] (1590) 1 : an express or implied promise or contract not under seal on which an action may be brought 2 a : a former common-law action brought to recover damages alleged from the breach of an assumption b : an action to recover damages for breach of a contract

as-sump-tion \-s\-\sh-s(p)-shön\ [ME, fr. LL *assumption*, *assumption* taking up, fr. L *assumere*] (13c) 1 a : the taking up of a person into heaven b cap : August 15 observed in commemoration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary 2 : a taking to or upon oneself (the ~ of a new position) 3 : the act of laying claim to or taking possession of something (the ~ of power) 4 : ARROGANCE, PRETENSION 5 a : an assuming that something is true b : a fact or statement (as a proposition, axiom, postulate, or notion) taken for granted 6 : the taking over of another's debts

as-sump-tive \-s\-\sh-s(p)-tiv\ adj (1611) : of, relating to, or based on assumption

as-sure \-s\-\shür\ vt as-sured; as-sur-ing [ME, fr. MF *assurer*, fr. ML *asscurare*, fr. L *ad-* + *securus* secure] (14c) 1 : to make safe (as from risks or against overthrow) : INSURE 2 : to give confidence to (and hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall ~ our hearts — 1 Jn 3:19 (AV)) 3 : to make sure or certain : CONVINCE (glancing back to ~ himself no one was following) 4 : to inform positively (I ~ you that we will do better next time) 5 : to make certain the coming or attainment of : GUARANTEE (worked hard to ~ accuracy) *syn* see ENSURE

as-sured \-s\-\shür\ adj (15c) 1 : characterized by certainty or security : GUARANTEED (an ~ market) 2 a : SELF-ASSURED b : SELF-SATISFIED 3 : satisfied as to the certainty or truth of a matter (rest ~ we got what we came for) — **as-sured-ness** \-shür-nd-nas, \-shür-nd\ n

as-sured-n, pl **as-sured** or **assureds** (1755) : INSURED

as-sured-ly \-s\-\shür-öd-ly\ adv (14c) 1 : without a doubt : CERTAINLY 2 : in an assured manner : CONFIDENTLY

as-sur-er \-s\-\shür-or\ or **as-sur-or** \-s\-\shür-ör\ n (1607) : one that assures : INSURER

as-sur-gen \-s\-\shär-jant\ adj [L *assurgere*, *assurgens*, pp. of *assurgere* to rise, fr. *ad-* + *surger* to rise — more at SURGE] (1578) : moving upward : RISING; esp. : ASCENDANT 1b

As-syr-i-an \-s\-\shir-ä-n\ n (15c) 1 : a native or inhabitant of ancient Assyria 2 : the dialect of Akkadian spoken by the Assyrians — **As-syr-i-an** adj

As-syr-i-o-ol-o-gy \-s\-\shir-ä-ö-lö-jé\ n (1828) : the science or study of the history, language, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Babylonian — **As-syr-i-o-og-ni-cal** \-s\-\shir-ä-ö-lä-jik\ adj — **As-syr-i-o-ol-o-gist** \-s\-\shir-ä-ö-lö-jist\ n

-ast n suffix [ME, fr. L *-astes*, fr. Gk. *-astēs*, fr. verbs in *-azein*] : one connected with (ecdysis)

astar-board \-s\-\shär-bord\ adv (ca. 1630) : toward or on the starboard side of a ship (put the helm hard ~)